

# BLACK SCIENCE

21

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
MORENO DINISIO



GODWORLD • PART 5 OF 5



## THE STORY SO FAR...

Three years now Grant has been stranded in a lonely dimension, his fevered psyche shattered by the loss of his children and crew after the Pillor's catastrophic final dimensional jump. Unable to cope with the loss, Grant fled into the recesses of his mind, where dark things awaited him.

But after embarking on a journey of self-discovery, deep into the heart of the Godworld, he has overcome a lifetime of guilt and regret, laid to rest the demons of his past, and emerged a man bent on righting the wrongs he has set in motion.

At the helm of a powerful new Pillar Ship, Grant is retracing his steps through the Eververse, tracking down the homing beacon of his teammates suits, hoping to find them alive, and finally, bring his family home.

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera



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MY FATHER USED TO SAY THAT **KNOWLEDGE** IS  
KNOWING TOMATOES ARE FRUITS, AND **WISDOM**  
IS NOT ADDING TOMATOES TO A FRUIT SALAD.





TRAVELING FOR  
HOURS NOW  
THROUGH TRILLIONS  
OF DIMENSIONS.

DEEPER THAN I EVER  
IMAGINED I'D GO.

TRACKING A HOMING BEACON  
TO THE NEXT-CLOSEST  
MEMBER OF MY CREW.



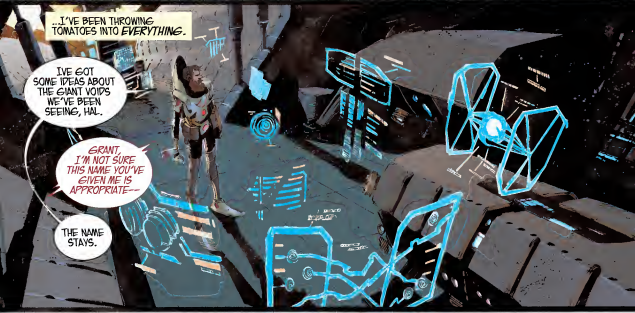
BUT SOMETHING'S  
VERY WRONG.

SWATHS OF REALITY  
ARE ENTIRELY EMPTY.

OPEN THE  
DIAGRAMS.  
WOULD YOU  
PLEASE.

CERTAINLY.

I KNEW I'D MADE A MESS OF MY LIFE,  
BUT IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT...




...I'VE BEEN THROWING  
TOMATOES INTO EVERYTHING.

I'VE GOT  
SOME IDEAS ABOUT  
THE GIANT VOIDS  
WE'VE BEEN  
SEEING, HAL.

GRANT,  
I'M NOT SURE  
THIS NAME YOU'VE  
GIVEN ME IS  
APPROPRIATE--

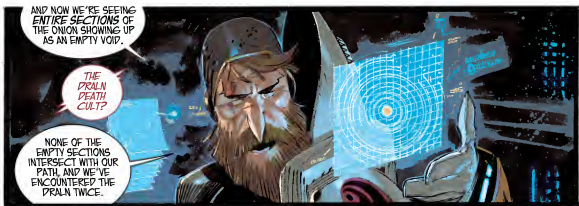
THE NAME  
STAYS.



EVERY TIME THE PILLAR PUNCHES  
A HOLE TO ANOTHER DIMENSION,  
IT LEAVES A SMALL TEAR IN THE  
FIBER OF EACH  
REALITY.

A COSMIC  
UMBILICAL CORD  
CONNECTING EVERY  
UNIVERSE WE'VE  
BEEN TO.

CORRECT.



AND NOW WE'RE SEEING  
ENTIRE SECTIONS OF  
THE UNION SHOWING UP  
AS AN EMPTY VOID.

THE  
DRAIN  
DEATH  
CULT?

NONE OF THE  
EMPTY SECTIONS  
INTERSECT WITH OUR  
PATH, AND WE'VE  
ENCOUNTERED THE  
DRAIN TWICE.



AND NOTHING  
WE'VE SEEN ABOUT  
THEM INDICATES  
THEY'D BE ABLE TO  
ERASE ENTIRE  
DIMENSIONS.

SO WHAT  
COULD?

KINETIC  
EVENTS,  
DARK MATTER  
REACTIONS,  
MAYBE EVEN  
A BIG...



JESUS  
CHRIST.

WHAT  
IS IT?

IT'S  
ME.

NOT JUST  
ME, EVERY  
ONE WHO EVER  
BUILT A  
PILLAR.

AN INFINITE  
NUMBER OF  
PILLARS MAKING  
CRACKS, A WEB OF  
INTERCONNECTING  
DIMENSIONS.



I COOKED UP STATISTICAL  
MODELS, OUT TO MILLIONS  
OF JUMPS, AND ANY REAL  
DANGER WAS  
INSIGNIFICANT.

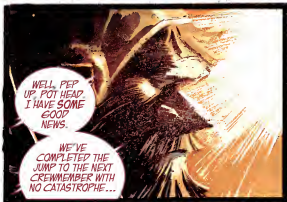
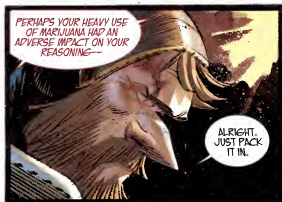
BUT WITH INFINITE  
PILLARS...



WHAT IF SOME VERSION  
OF ME ARRIVED IN A  
STATISTICAL ANOMALY,  
LIKE A UNIVERSE  
COMPRISED OF  
ANTIMATTER...

SHOW ME  
WHAT THAT  
WOULD LOOK  
LIKE.





"...AND TO AN EARTH  
THAT CLOSELY  
RESEMBLES YOUR OWN."

ZEROOSH



FFSHHH

YOU DON'T  
NEED THE  
HELMET.

THE AIR  
IS FINE.

THINK I'LL  
ERR ON  
THE SIDE OF  
CAUTION.

PARANOIA  
FROM ALL  
THAT POT  
USE.



THE SUIT  
TRACKER IS  
READING NORTH,  
JUST INSIDE  
THE FOREST.

MAYBE IT'S NATE.

HE'D KNOW TO CAMP  
OUT AND WAIT FOR ME.

HE'D KNOW  
I'D BE BACK  
FOR HIM.



EXPECTATIONS  
LIKE A KID ON  
CHRISTMAS.

OPENING A PRESENT  
TO SEE WHO I'LL FIND.

LAST JUMP NEARLY  
CRUSHED ME.



CAN'T FIND  
ANOTHER BODY.

I NEED A WIN.

THERE'S  
NO ONE  
HERE.

YOU ARE  
INCORRECT,  
GRANT.



THE  
BEACON IS  
COMING FROM  
FIVE FEET  
BELOW  
YOU.



CAUSE OF DEATH?

BLUNT TRAUMA TO THE HEAD.

ROUGHLY THREE YEARS AGO.

IT APPEARS SHE WAS MURDERED.



YOU'RE SURE IT'S HER?

DNA MATCHES.

REBECCA DELL, AGE THIRTY-FIVE.



I'M SORRY, GRANT.

YEAH.

BUT I'M NOT, AM I?

JUST RELIEVED IT'S NOT ONE OF THE KIDS.



I LET HER PLAY ME. SHOWED HER MY DAMAGE.

LET HER USE IT TO GET WHAT SHE WANTED.

DOESN'T MAKE HER A MONSTER...



...JUST MAKES HER LIKE MOST EVERYONE I'VE EVER MET.

WAIT—HER MOLECULAR SIGNATURE MATCHES THIS DIMENSION'S.

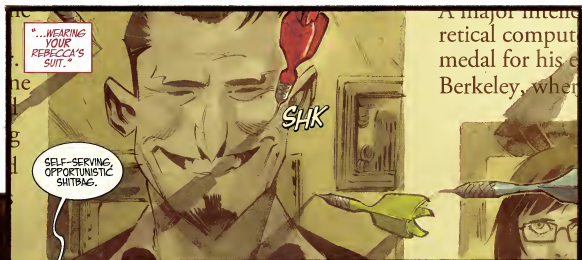
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



THIS ISN'T THE REBECCA FROM YOUR WORLD, GRANT.

THIS IS THE REBECCA FROM THIS WORLD...





"...WEARING  
YOUR  
REBECCA'S  
SUIT."

SELF-SERVING,  
OPPORTUNISTIC  
SHITBAG.

SHK

A major interna-  
tional comput-  
er medal for his e-  
Berkeley, when



DOES THIS  
MEAN THE  
VACCINE  
ISN'T FREE  
ANYMORE?

READ THE  
FUCKING  
ARTICLE! KADIR  
PATENTED IT AND IS  
CHARGING  
PEOPLE!

THEY'RE  
GOING TO GET  
RICH OFF OF THE  
MISERY OF THE  
POOREST PEOPLE  
ON THE PLANET.



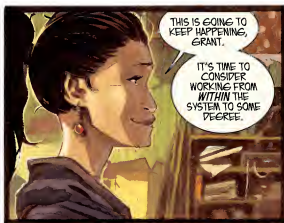
MAYBE IT'S  
TIME TO  
PATENT YOUR  
INVENTIONS.

FUCK  
THAT.

I DEVELOPED  
THE VACCINE TO  
HELP PEOPLE.  
NOT TO MAKE A  
PROFIT.

JUST NEVER  
IMAGINED  
ANYONE  
WOULD.

EVEN  
HIM.



THIS IS GOING TO  
KEEP HAPPENING,  
GRANT.

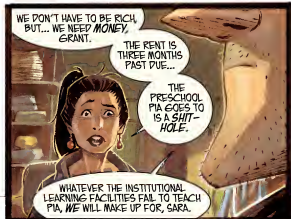
IT'S TIME TO  
CONSIDER  
WORKING FROM  
WITHIN THE  
SYSTEM TO SOME  
DEGREE.



THE SYSTEM  
BREEDS THE  
KIND OF PERSON WHO  
WOULD USE THE CURE  
TO A DISEASE TO  
GET RICH.



SHK



WE DON'T HAVE TO BE RICH,  
BUT... WE NEED MONEY,  
GRANT.

THE RENT IS  
THREE MONTHS  
PAST DUE...

THE  
PRESCHOOL  
PIA GOES TO  
IS A SHIT-  
HOLE.

WHATEVER THE INSTITUTIONAL  
LEARNING FACILITIES FAIL TO TEACH  
PIA, WE WILL MAKE UP FOR, SARA.



ISN'T THERE  
A MIDDLE  
GROUND?

YOU START  
CHASING MONEY,  
YOUR LIFE  
DISAPPEARS.

AS SOON AS  
THAT BECOMES  
YOUR PRIORITY  
THEN EVERYTHING  
THAT REALLY  
MATTERS  
CRUMBLES AWAY.



NO, NO  
COMPROMISE.

YOU DON'T  
GET TO BE THIS  
INFLEXIBLE  
ANYMORE.

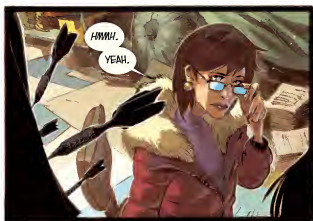
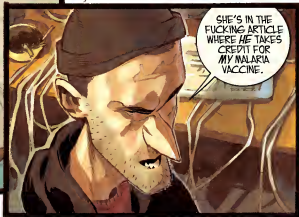
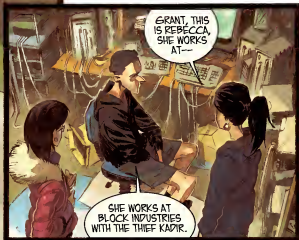


SARA, IF AN EVIL,  
UNPRINCIPLED GIANT  
KEEPS FUCKING YOU  
IN THE ASS THE  
LOGICAL SOLUTION  
ISN'T TO JOIN HIS  
SORDID LITTLE  
CLUB.

YOU'RE  
NOT THE ONLY  
ONE GETTING  
FUCKED,  
THOUGH. WE  
HAVE A FAMILY—



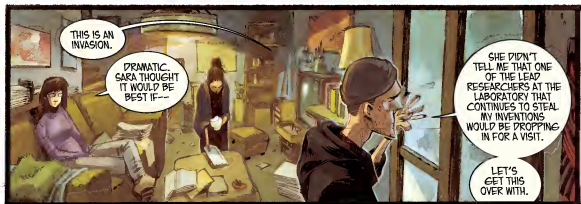
KNOCK  
KNOCK





I APPRECIATE THAT THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED VISIT.

UNEXPECTED IS AN OLD FRIEND DROPPING BY...



THIS IS AN INVASION.

DRAMATIC. SARA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF--

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT ONE OF THE LEAD RESEARCHERS AT THE LABORATORY THAT CONTINUES TO STEAL MY INVENTIONS WOULD BE DROPPING IN FOR A VISIT.

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.



YES.

WELL.

IT'S NO SECRET AROUND THE OFFICE THAT KADIR GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO TAKE CREDIT FOR YOUR IDEAS.



OH? SO YOU ALL MUST'VE QUIT WORKING FOR THE SCUMBAG TO MAINTAIN SOME MORAL INTEGRITY?

NO.

I PREFER TO BE ON THE INSIDE PISSING OUT, IF YOU FOLLOW.



BUT IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT, WHILE STEALING YOUR INVENTIONS IS A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS...

...KADIR SEEMS TO BE DOING IT FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

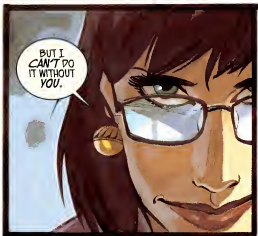
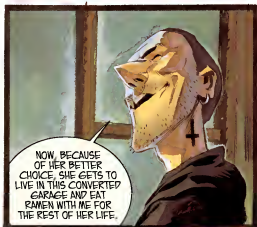
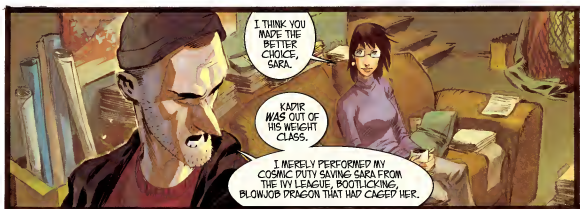
HE IS.

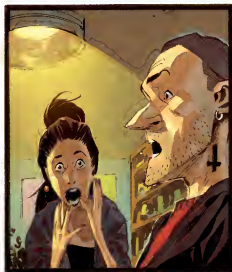
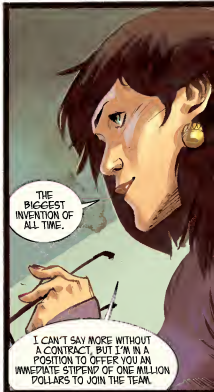


BACK IN COLLEGE, KADIR AND I WERE DATING WHEN I MET GRANT.

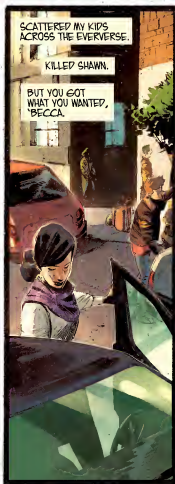
HE NEVER GOT OVER IT.



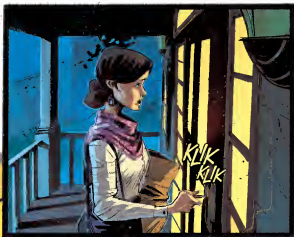
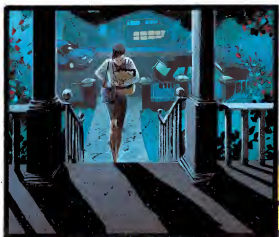












JAKE!  
DOOR'S  
LOCKED.

MAKE ME  
DRIVE ALL THIS  
WAY TO MAKE  
YOU CHICKEN  
PARIA—



HEY.

WHAT'S  
THE MATTER  
WITH YOU?



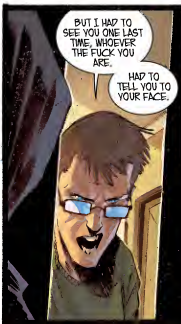
HE TOLD ME  
I SHOULDN'T  
EVEN OPEN  
THE DOOR FOR  
YOU.

WHO  
TOLD YOU  
WHAT?



A DETECTIVE  
STOPPED BY.

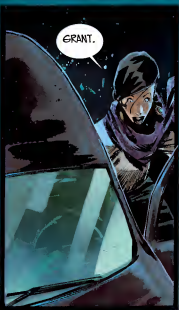
I KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
DID.











GRANT.



YOU LOOK  
UPSET.

HAVING  
A BAD NIGHT,  
REBECCA?



SOME NEW LIFE  
YOU'VE GOT  
HERE.

NEW HUSBAND.  
NEW BABY. GOT  
YOUR BROTHER  
BACK.

YOU BASTARD  
WHAT THE HELL DO  
YOU WANT FROM ME?



I WANT YOU  
TO TELL ME HOW  
MANY PEOPLE  
YOU KILLED TO  
GET IT?



I NEVER  
WANTED  
TO KILL  
ANYONE.

BUT PEOPLE  
KEPT GETTING  
IN YOUR WAY,  
RIGHT?

ACCEPT  
SOME  
CULPABILITY  
FOR WHAT  
YOU DID.

I SPENT TEN  
YEARS BEING  
MANIPULATED BY  
YOU, LISTENING  
TO YOU SHIFT  
BLAME—



DON'T YOU  
FUCKING  
DAKE BLAME  
YOUR CHOICES  
ON ME!

YOU  
WEREN'T  
IN THAT LAB  
FOR ME.



JUST LIKE  
I WASN'T  
THERE FOR  
YOU.

OUR OWN  
REASONS,  
OUR OWN  
CHOICES.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

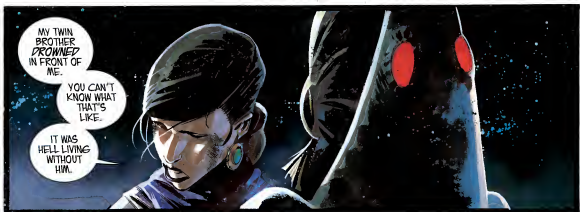


BUT I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR MY WEAKNESS,  
FOR MY CHOICES.



I KNEW THE KIND OF  
PEOPLE I WAS  
GETTING INVOLVED  
WITH WHEN I TOOK  
THE JOB.

THE KIND OF  
PEOPLE WHO  
WOULD KILL A  
FRIEND TO GET  
WHAT THEY  
WANTED.



MY TWIN  
BROTHER  
DROWNED  
IN FRONT OF  
ME.

YOU CAN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THAT'S  
LIKE.

IT WAS  
HELL LIVING  
WITHOUT  
HIM.





THIS IS  
BETTER.

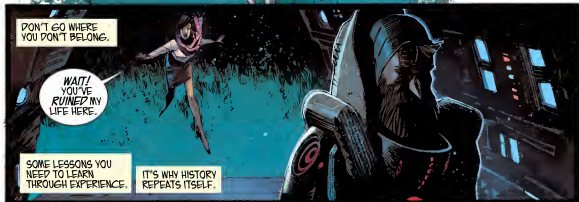


WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

TO  
FIND MY  
FAMILY.

MY DAD USED TO SAY THAT  
KNOWLEDGE IS KNOWING THAT A  
TOMATO IS A FRUIT AND WISDOM IS NOT  
ADDING A TOMATO TO A FRUIT SALAD.

I COULD HAVE SAVED EVERYONE  
A LOT OF TROUBLE IF I'D  
UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SAYING.



DON'T GO WHERE  
YOU DON'T BELONG.

WAIT!  
YOU'VE  
RUINED MY  
LIFE HERE.

SOME LESSONS YOU  
NEED TO LEARN  
THROUGH EXPERIENCE.

IT'S WHY HISTORY  
REPEATS ITSELF.



BUT HISTORY ISN'T  
GOING TO REPEAT  
AGAIN.

I CAN STILL  
MAKE THIS  
RIGHT.

YOU CAN'T  
JUST LEAVE  
ME HERE,  
GRANT!

KLOOM





DREEEEEEEE...

PLEASE...



TAKE ME HOME!



THEY SAY GOD FORGIVES ALL...

GOOD THING HE'S NOT REAL...



BECAUSE ENDLESS DIVINE AMNESTY SEEMS LIKE SOME BULLSHIT.

SOME THINGS YOU DO-- THERE'S NO COMING BACK FROM.



SOME THINGS YOU  
SHOULD PAY FOR.

I'M READY TO PAY FOR  
WHAT I'VE DONE, REBECCA.



ARE YOU?

# BLACK SCIENCE

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LETTERER

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# FROM PILLAR TO POST



CALLING ALL DIMENSIONAUTS!

Send comments, questions and distress signals to [WriteRemender@gmail.com](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)! Mark letters "OK to print".

**RR** - What better way to end our 4th story arc than with some good ol' fashioned payback? Was it too much? It's interesting to build character arcs and then bend them a bit. Grant is growing into a better person, but he's still going to make human choices. After all she did to him, his family and crew did Rebecca get what she deserved or was this yet another case of Grant being incapable of taking the high road?

To Image's very own Anarchist League of All Things Dope and Awesome,

I'm a pretty cynical dude these days. There's a lot of troubling shit going down in the world. A lot of good too, if you look hard enough. For me, distraction has always been key to a happy life.

But I find as I get older, it's harder to be distracted from the inconsistencies in life and the ever-growing cracks in society; those glaring flaws we are taught to accept and digest without question. It can all get a little unsettling if you think too much.

But then I remember I'm not doing shit to change things, so who am I to judge? I should get the fuck off my high horse.

So a big thank you for the distractions, Rick. Ever since you blew my mind with your bombastic take on the darker side of the *X-Men* with *Uncanny X-Force* I've been a fan. Seriously, when Deadpool was wasting away from Famine's attack and had to eat his own regenerating flesh for nourishment...sick, twisted and ingenious. I'd like to know how that idea surfaced...

I loved your take on Cap in Zemo's dimension X too, and *Deadly Class* is equal parts style and substance; unflinching and nasty and effortlessly cool.

But man, **BLACK SCIENCE**! I've taken my time getting to it, there's a ton of great books around these days after all as I'm sure you know, but that means I am seriously binging right now; the graphic novel equivalent of mainlining two seasons of game of thrones in a single weekend.

Did you ever watch *Sliders*? It had two great seasons, a misguided third, and then it slid into the utter garbage, so asinine that even an ardent fan such as myself could not bear to watch. **BLACK SCIENCE** is like the adult version of that show for me. It has the same spirit of adventure, but with higher stakes, added gore and violence that doesn't feel gratuitous, and more crazy and colorful visuals than the low budget of that show could ever muster.

There's something about a group of people stumbling through dimensions with no

help or real direction, trying to find their way home with the cosmic odds stacked against them that I just find very appealing and romantic. The fact that the device they are using could also have huge repercussions for the multiverse is just the icing on the cake.

The best part: you are not limited by budget, and your stories won't be compromised by retarded studio executives who insist on shoehorning current fads into the storytelling, because "ratings" and "demographics" and....shudder.

So thanks to you Rick, and your team, for realizing this vision in such vivid and enticing detail every month; the distraction is more than welcome, it's absolutely fucking necessary.

Luke "Chachi" Chiera

**RR** - Thanks for writing in, Luke. I appreciate you following me from the Marvel work. I never did watch *Sliders*, I knew what it was, but never watched it. Early on, years ago, I temporarily considered that doing something with dimension traveling would be too similar before

I realized that we can have hundreds of stories about space travel, time travel, and travel travel, so why can't we have a couple of stories that involve dimensional travel? Glad to hear you're enjoying the story.

Okay, that's it for now. We're going to take a couple of months to get caught up but we'll be back with **BLACK SCIENCE** in the summer. We're inching towards the big event, the climactic business that brings all the pieces of the story into a new focus. I've written a good chunk of the next story and can't imagine anyone could possibly anticipate the turns we are taking. This arc was a nice breather from the endless fast paced action we'd been dialed into, and hopefully with a tulle picture of who Grant is you'll be more invested in where he goes next when we hit the crank and get back to the big dangers awaiting him.

Before we go check out this great **BLACK SCIENCE** art our pal Shawn Crystal did.

See you in a couple of months, - Rick



Art by Shawn Crystal

# TRANSMISSIONS FROM A BASEMENT

NO TIME TO WRITE ANYTHING THIS MONTH, SO HERE'S A COMIC RICK DID WITH FAREL DALRYMPLE...

BLACK SCIENCE  
ISSUE #21



DEADLY CLASS  
ISSUE #19



LOW  
ISSUE #12



TOKYO GHOST  
ISSUE #5

OUT  
NOW

Here's my dream.



The game is to stay current with what the observer wants.



By Rick Remender and Farel Dalrymple

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!



essential sequential

MATTEO  
SCALERA

BLACK SCIENCE  
ART



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# NEXT ISSUE

## BLACK SCIENCE

22

RICK REMENDER  
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